

Katharine Greider. The title of the book, and I recommend it to all of my colleagues, is "The Big Fix: How the Pharmaceutical Industry Rips Off America." I do not know what her philosophy is. I do not know what her politics are. I do not know what religion she practices, but I have to say that the research that she has done is extremely good and it raises some very difficult questions.

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The other thing that I have been doing is talking to Members about these huge disparities between what we pay in America and what the rest of the world pays for the same drugs. Let me give my colleagues some examples. These are my own research, drugs that we actually bought at the Munich airport in Munich, Germany, and then we compared what the price is in the United States. Let us take the drug Glucophage. Glucophage is a wonderful drug, particularly for those people suffering from diabetes. Glucophage in the United States, 30 tablets, 850 milligrams, sells for about \$30. That same drug in Germany sells for \$5.

We can go on down the line. Cipro. This is the drug Cipro, a very commonly prescribed, very effective antibiotic made by a company called Bayer. In the United States we usually call it Bayer, Bayer aspirin. We are probably more familiar with that. But this drug in the United States sells for an average of about \$55. It sells in Germany for \$35.

We go on down the list. I will not read the whole list tonight, but the one that really chaps my hide is this drug right here. This is Tamoxifen. We bought this drug at the airport pharmacy in Munich, Germany, for \$59.05 American. In this quantity, 100 tablets, 20 milligrams, in the United States this same drug sells for \$360. \$60 in Germany, \$360 here.

The real point is this. I have shared this story, too. If you go to Tokyo, Japan and you order a steak dinner, about the cheapest you will find it in Tokyo is about \$100. You can buy an equal quality, in fact perhaps a better quality steak anywhere here in the United States for probably \$20. Why is there so much difference between what you pay for a steak in Tokyo versus here in the United States? The answer is simple. The people of Japan are a captive market. They do not allow other products to come in. That is what we have done with drugs in this country. We literally have made Americans a captive market.

We are talking about a prescription drug benefit and everybody is talking about coverage. Ladies and gentlemen, the issue is not so much coverage, because every senior in America has at least the opportunity to buy prescription drug coverage through the AARP and lots of other organizations. The problem is not coverage. The problem is affordability. We will never solve the entire problem for all of those seniors.

One of the points that is made by Ms. Greider in her book, she mentions a study that was done. This is one of the most damning studies and every one of us should be ashamed. The study says that 29 percent of seniors say that they have had prescriptions that went unfilled simply because they could not afford them.

A couple of weeks ago I was addressing community pharmacists, and I asked them the question: Have you ever had a senior come in and give you a prescription and you told that senior how much this was going to be and they sort of dropped their head and said, well, maybe I'll be back tomorrow. And they do not come back because they cannot afford it. That is something we can change, that is within our power to change. Shame on us if we do not. I hope you will cosponsor my bill to give Americans access to world class drugs at world market prices.

VETERANS BUDGET CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues who yesterday were announcing so passionately their love of the flag and all it represents, how 75 short days ago in this same room we stood in the People's House and stripped the veterans budget by almost \$30 billion.

I have heard my colleagues on the other side accuse those who oppose the flag amendment as being unpatriotic. No, Mr. Speaker, what is disgracefully unpatriotic and a flagrant dishonor to the hundreds of thousands of Americans who died defending this country, and to those who even now are still in harm's way overseas, are the reverse Robin Hoods that walk these halls of Congress, the ones who find it so easy to sneak money to their country club buddies for their tax breaks while stripping the benefits and services from those who fought to defend the very freedoms that our flag represents. To all of those who are so quick to question their opponents' patriotism, where was your patriotism when you cut almost 20,000 VA nurses? Where was your patriotism when you voted for the loss of 6.6 million outpatient visits? Were you waving your flag as you voted to drop over 160,000 veterans from the VA health care system? I missed the rendition of the Star Spangled Banner when you voted to reach into the pockets of our Nation's service-connected veterans and rob them and their survivors, their widows and children, of a portion of their promised compensation.

And the list goes on. Just today these same hypocrites, calling themselves patriots, fought to take away women's constitutionally protected rights. This

administration laughs in the face of our Bill of Rights as it holds thousands of people in jail without any due process under the guise of national security. At this very moment there are Haitians being held illegally in prison even after a judge ruled in their favor. They offer no threat to this country, but Attorney General Ashcroft is arbitrarily taking their rights. Not only is this administration arresting adults but they are arresting children. These are the actions of a dictator. And worst of all, the administration has lied time and time again to the American people when trying to invent reasons to preemptively invade Iraq. I cannot find a shred of patriotism in any of this.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my so-called patriots here who proclaim so loudly their love of the flag to put their money where their mouth is. Everybody can talk the talk. It takes a real patriot to walk the walk. I stand in protest of this House being derelict in its duties and leaving our veterans behind. Wake up, America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CULBERSON. addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REGARDING THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, once again this week the Republican majority showed its true colors, a party looking out for the elite at the detriment of middle- and low-income working families. During the final negotiations on their tax package, Republicans deliberately chose to leave more than 12 million children behind. The omission of a provision that would have extended a \$400 child tax credit to working families making \$10,000 to \$26,000 a year was neither an accident nor an oversight. The provision, which had not been included in President Bush's initial \$726 billion proposal or the House Republicans' \$550 billion, was added in the Senate by a Democrat, Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN. Why did this considerably small provision, \$3.5 billion out of a giant \$350 billion tax bill, make the Republicans' chopping block during their final negotiations with each House? As my colleagues already know, not one Democrat was allowed to negotiate the differences between the House and the Senate bill.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer probably explained it best when he said, "Does tax relief go to people who pay income taxes or does it go above and beyond the forgoing of

all income taxes and you actually get a check from the government for more than you ever owed in income taxes?" The House majority leader supported Fleischer's claims yesterday when he said, "To me, it's a little difficult to give tax relief to people that don't pay income taxes."

Mr. Speaker, what the President's press secretary seems to forget and what the majority leader seems to ignore is that these workers do pay Federal taxes. 7.65 percent of their earnings go to pay for Social Security and Medicare. They are in fact paying taxes. Bob Herbert of the New York Times called the Republican action "the reverse Robin Hood" and he wrote, "The fat cats will get their tax cuts. But in the new American plutocracy, there won't even be crumbs left over for the working folks at the bottom of the pyramid to scramble for."

After realizing that the Republicans had left this provision out of the final tax bill, several of my Democratic colleagues introduced a bill earlier this week that would repair the damage from this irresponsible tax package. Congressman RANGEL'S legislation would provide greater tax relief to the families of 19 million children and the legislation is fully paid for so this relief would not add to the record deficits created by the President and the Republicans in Congress.

Yesterday, Democrats in the House said they would not allow business to continue as usual around here until Republicans agreed to address the Rangel legislation. Not only did Majority Leader TOM DELAY say the House would not consider the Rangel legislation, but in attempting to justify this action, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) said, "There are a lot of other things that are more important than that."

Mr. Speaker, how can the majority leader say that helping these children is not important? I think it is very sad, Mr. Speaker, because the Republican leader's statement is not shocking to anyone who watches what goes on around here. In fact, unlike some of his Republican colleagues, at least Congressman DELAY tells it like it is. And what it is, is that the Republican leadership continues to do the important work for the wealthiest elite in this country at the detriment of low- and middle-income families. Just 2 weeks after the Republicans passed their tax bill, the Tax Policy Institute released a report yesterday showing that the middle class tax share is set to rise, a surprise to no one. The report, which analyzed the three tax initiatives President Bush has signed into law, concluded Americans earning between \$28,000 and up to \$337,000 will soon take on a greater share of the taxes than they had before President Bush took office. The only people that benefit are the millionaires.

Mr. Speaker, I just hope that one day these Republican attacks on low- and middle-class people will come to an

end, but so far they are not coming to an end and I expect them to continue with this Republican leadership.

REPORT CONCERNING IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the President arrived in Europe during this recent and historic journey, culminating, we hope, in progress today in the nation of Jordan, several days ago he was greeted with what can only be described as a hysterical European press attack on what were called the lies and distortions of this administration relative to its pronouncements about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction in the months leading up to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After that hysteria in the European press, even some editorial pages in the United States have gone forward with similar recriminations and I thought that it would be useful tonight, Mr. Speaker, to rise and talk about the facts of weapons of mass destruction. I do so having literally just come this morning from a briefing by the Under Secretary for Arms Control for the United States Department of State, Mr. John Bolton, perhaps one of the most distinguished and informed leaders in our Nation, on the subject of arms control and weapons proliferation.

Mr. Bolton spoke before us today of the efforts within Iraq, the Iraq survey group, that he believed would bear fruit soon, in his words, in finding both evidence of a WMD program and also ultimately weapons of mass destruction themselves. He said that he believed that we would be soon finding weapons and the means of production in due course. But where comes his confidence, Mr. Speaker? Perhaps it comes with a brief recitation of the history of the region. People are very quick to forget, especially in the European press that seems to suggest that this idea of Iraq having weapons of mass destruction was somehow invented out of whole cloth.

Many seem to forget that it was Iraq themselves, 18 April 1991, that provided an initial declaration required under U.N. resolution 687 declaring themselves, Iraq declared themselves in the possession of chemical weapons and materials and 53 al Hussein and Scud type long-range ballistic missiles. At that point in April of 1991, they denied the presence of any biological weapons. By May, Iraq submitted a revised declaration covering additional chemical weapons and a refinement of the missile declaration. And then after pressure from UNSCOM, Iraq admitted in August of 1991 that they had a biological research program for defensive military purposes.

According to UNSCOM estimates, Iraq acknowledged that they were in

possession of 10,000 nerve gas warheads, 1,500 chemical weapons and 412 tons of chemical weapon agents. 1991. As Under Secretary Bolton said today, it has been the unchanged position throughout the Clinton administration and through the Bush administration that those weapons are unaccounted for to this day. Both administrations held, in Mr. Bolton's words as a representative of the State Department, precisely the same view of these weapons, that were not invented by some political spinmeister in the run-up to Operation Iraqi Freedom, they were admitted to by the regime in Baghdad, who went on year after year delaying inspections, denying their presence and refusing to prove their destruction, leading up to the 1998 expulsion of U.N. weapons inspectors, resulting in President Clinton's attack on Iraq with cruise missiles. And President Clinton, of course, gave the reason at that time that he needed to "attack Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological programs and their capacity to threaten their neighbors."

And so I thought it important tonight, after hearing on the International Relations Committee, Mr. Speaker, from John Bolton, the Under Secretary of Arms Control, that there is confidence that the Iraq survey group at the State Department will bear fruit. We will continue to find evidence, like the mobile labs, like the unarmed aerial vehicles, we will continue to find evidence of a WMD program in Iraq.

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That confidence arises not from the heart of the White House or the West Wing, but, rather, from the pronouncements of the regime in Iraq about their own possession a decade ago of hundreds of tons of chemical and biological agents. The facts speak for themselves.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 222, ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT AND S. 273, GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK LAND EXCHANGE ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-140) on the resolution (H. Res. 258) providing for consideration of the Senate bill (S. 222) to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in Apache County, Arizona, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the Senate bill (S. 273) to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of land owned by the State of Wyoming within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.